

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i> | | | | Complete if Known | |
| | | | | Application Number | 10/772,565 |
| | | | | Filing Date | February 4, 2004 |
| | | | | First Named Inventor | Albert J. Stopniewicz, et al. |
| | | | | Art Unit | 2154 |
| Examiner Name | Not yet assigned | | | | |
| Sheet | 1 | of | 1 | Attorney Docket Number | 700546.4009 |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials | Cite No. ¹ | U.S. Patent Document Number-Kind Code ² (if known) | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document |
|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| | 1. | 5,959,596 | 09/28/1999 | McCarten, et al. |
| | 2. | 6,249,913 | 06/19/2001 | Galipeau, et al. |
| | 3. | 6,757,712 | 06/29/2004 | Bastian, et al. |
| | 4. | 7,124,426 | 10/17/2006 | Tsuria, et al. |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document Country ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | T ⁶ |
|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials | Cite No. ¹ | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. | T ² |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| | | | |
| | | | |

| | | | |
|--------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Examiner Signature | | Date Considered | |
|--------------------|--|-----------------|--|

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicants unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 USC 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS, SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop Amendment, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450